

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides an FPA polynucleotide sequence which is involved in controlling the flowering time of plants. The present invention also provides a vector incorporating the protein coding sequence, or a portion or homolog thereof, as well as a genetically modified plant. Also disclosed are methods of producing a genetically modified plant in which the flowering time of the plant has been selectively altered, and methods for reducing the activity of FLC mRNA in plants containing the FLC gene.

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